Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. [Currently amended] A method of defining a common interactions protocol between two entities, the method comprising:

    a data processing system:

        converting syntactic specifications of multiple documents to be passed between the entities, into a skeleton semantic web ontology comprising a set of classes;

        deriving for each entity a respective set of constraints including semantic constraints established by the entity on aspects of the classes of the skeleton ontology ;

        calculating the union of the two sets of constraints ;

        determining, using a constraint resolver that comprises a description logic reasoner, whether the union is satisfiable, and:

            where the union is satisfiable, deriving from the intersection of the two sets of constraints a restricted document specification that is compatible with the constraint sets of both entities; and

            where the union is not satisfiable, indicating where any incompatibility lies.

2. Canceled.

3. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 1, wherein the syntactic specifications are input as XML Schemas.

4-8. Canceled.

9. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 1, wherein the restricted document specification comprises both a specification of applicable syntactic constraints and a specification of applicable semantic constraints.

10-12. Cancelled.

13. [Currently amended] A method according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising at least one said entity data processing system:

pre-specifying semantic constraints and associating them with deployment contexts;

the deriving of the set of constraints for that entity comprising defining a particular deployment context for the common interactions protocol, and

determining which of the pre-specified semantic constraints are applicable to said particular deployment context.

14. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 13, wherein the deployment context associated with at least one pre-specified semantic constraint is specified in generic terms covering multiple particular deployment contexts .

15. Canceled.

16. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 13, wherein the deployment contexts are specified by one or more elements from the set comprising the document, the sender, the receiver, the backend system, the business process and the department.

17. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 16 , wherein the deployment contexts are expressed using Boolean logic between the elements.

18. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ pre-specifying ~~step~~ comprises specifying constraints applicable to whole classes of objects/processes.

19-43. Canceled.